

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 30-33 and rejected claims 34-46 and 50-59 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a). The Examiner objected to claims 47-49 as depending from rejected claims.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 47-49 to overcome the Examiner's objections and have canceled claims 34-36 and 50-59 with prejudice.

Claims 30-33 and 47-49 are currently pending. As mentioned above, claims 34-46 and 50-59 have been canceled without prejudice herein. Therefore, the rejections of those claims are rendered moot. Furthermore, claims 47-49 have been amended to obviate the Examiner's objection.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 30-33 and 47-49 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 47-49 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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